

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 11 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 3.

Claim Objections

The objection to claims 11 and 12 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) is rendered moot by the claim amendments.

Consideration After Final Rejection

Although these amendments are presented after final rejection, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments and consider the remarks, as they place the application in condition for allowance.

Patentability Arguments

The patentability of the present invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Each of the rejections set forth in items 1-19 on pages 2-7 of the outstanding Office Action is rendered moot by the present claim amendments.

Specifically, Examiner Martinez kindly indicated the allowability of claim 3 (see the paragraph spanning pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action). Accordingly, claim 3 is absent from each of the prior art rejections set forth in the Office Action.

The pending claims are claims 3, which was indicated as allowable, claims 7 and 8,

which depend upon claim 3, and claims 11 and 12, which are written in independent form and include the limitations of claim 3.

Accordingly, each of the prior art rejections set forth in the final Office Action is overcome. It is respectfully requested that each of the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Allowance

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claim 3. In view of the comments presented above, each of the pending claims is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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